

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 629

By Green

A RESOLUTION to honor Chief Warrant Officer Five Billy Cook on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, our nation was conceived by individuals who were willing to sacrifice their personal safety and concerns to ensure our individual and collective freedom, and the Volunteer State is especially proud to honor those many valiant men and women who continue this time-honored tradition of volunteerism through service in the United States Army; and

WHEREAS, one such intrepid individual is Chief Warrant Officer Five Billy Cook, who, after forty-three years of distinguished service in the United States Army, is taking a much deserved retirement; and

WHEREAS, CW5 Cook entered the military in October 1979, completed basic training at Ft. Leonard Wood, Missouri, and received his Aviator wings on December 16, 1980, at Ft. Rucker, Alabama; he received ratings in the TH-55, UH-1H/N, and OH-58 A/C; and

WHEREAS, after earning his Aviator wings, CW5 Cook served from January 1981 to December 1984 with A Battery, 377th Field Artillery, Ft. Campbell, Kentucky; from January 1987 to April 1988 he served in the 44st MED DET, Kentucky National Guard; from September 1988 to December 1990 he was assigned to E Co, 1st BN, 14th AVN Brigade at Ft. Rucker, Alabama; during this time, he also completed two tours to the Sinai with the 163 AVN CO FWD/Multinational Force and Observers; and

WHEREAS, in July 1990, CW5 Cook favorably assessed for the 160th SOAR (A) and from January to May 1991 he was assigned to the Regiment's HHC; CW5 Billy Cook was then assigned to A Company, 1st Battalion from May 1991 to December 1997 during which time he deployed, in 1993, in support of operations in Somalia as a Fully Mission Qualified Instructor Pilot, and again in 1995 as a Flight Lead in support of operations in Haiti; and

WHEREAS, after leaving Alpha Company in December 1997, CW5 Cook served in the Special Operations Aviation Training Company (SOATC) training new Nightstalkers from January 1998 to January 2000; he then returned to A Company in February 2000 where he stayed until February 2001; and

WHEREAS, CW5 Billy Cook served as the Standardization Pilot (SP) for 1st Battalion, 160th SOAR (A) from March 2001 to March 2003; in April 2003, CW5 Cook was assigned to HHC Regiment, where he served as the Regiment's SP until April 2005; and

WHEREAS, in May 2005, CW5 Cook returned to A Company where he served as a Flight Lead; since 2003 he has deployed continuously as a Flight Lead, Air Mission Commander and OIC in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom; during his time in the 160th SOAR (A), CW5 Cook served with distinction at the company, battalion, and regiment level; and

WHEREAS, CW5 Billy Cook's impact on the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne) cannot be overstated; his contributions as a Flight Lead, Air Mission Commander, OIC, and mentor have made a permanent and lasting impact on the Special Operations Aviation community; and

WHEREAS, CW5 Cook's meritorious service has been recognized by many awards, including three Meritorious Service Medals, nine Air Medals, two Joint Service Achievement Medals, two Army Achievement Medals, a Purple Heart, the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Bronze Star Medal, and three Army Commendation Medals; and

WHEREAS, throughout his storied career, Chief Warrant Officer Five Billy Cook has served these United States with honor and distinction, and it is wholly fitting that this body recognize him on the occasion of his retirement from military service; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and commend Chief Warrant Officer Five Billy Cook of the

United States Army upon his retirement, extending our gratitude for his many years of selfless service and our best wishes for his every future happiness and success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.